Installation of CAT-III A landing system

573. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Air India are incurring heavy losses every year due to cancellation/delay of flights due to dense fog or otherwise;

(b) if so, the estimated loss incurred by Indian and Air India due to cancellation/delay of flights during the last two years;

(c) whether the CAT-III A system installed at various airports to facilitate landing in foggy conditions proved ineffective;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the amount spent on installation of such system; and

(f) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) While Indian has inccured an estimate loss of Re. 5.80 crores during the year 2005-06 and Rs.1.65 crores during the year 2006-07 (April-Oct. 06) in respect of flights cancelled due to bad weather, Air India has incurred loss of approx. Rs. 50 lakhs during the year 2004-05 and approx. Rs. 25 lakhs during the year 2005-06 on this count.

(c) and (d) CAT-IIIB Instrument Landing System (ILS) has been installed only at IGI Airport, Delhi and the sytem is working satisfactorily.

(e) The amount spent on installation of CAT-IIIB ILS at Delhi Airport is Rs. 55 crores.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply at (c) and (d) above.

Formation of federation of Indian Airlines

574. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the full-service and low-cost carriers of Indian aviation industry have formed a Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA);

(b) whether the Federation in its first meeting, the pricing aspects of the Industry was reportedly discussed and if so, whether this amount to attempt on caetherelisation detrimental to the interests of air travellers; and

(c) whether the Competition Commission of India has raised concerns over the formation of such a federation and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), while some airlines raised the issue of high input cost and its resultant impact on yields/tariffs, no decision on pricing was taken in its first meeting.

(c) the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had drawn the attention of this Ministry to the section/provisions of Competition Act, 2002 which prohibit anti-competitive agreements. The concerned section of the Act are however yet to be brought into force. Meanwhile, the view of the CCI have been communicated to the Chairman of the Federation of Airlines.

Setting up of aviation grid

575. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Aviation Grid to ensure infrastructure development in the country in view of the boom in aviation industry;

(b) if so, the details of its constitution and precise functions;

(c) the steps so far taken in this regard; and

(d) the immediate plan in hand for the grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. However, Government wishes to encourage the use of all available infrastructure in the country whether it be airfields which are not operational presently as well as the airfields owned by State Governments of Ministry of Defence. A policy to promote greenfield airports is already in place. This will lead to better connectivity to most parts of the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.